

FOR ARBITRATION.

British Government Has President Castro's Proposal.

TRUCE FOLLOWS ITS RECEIPT.

Aggression In Venezuelan Waters Discontinued Pending Decision.

AMICABLE SETTLEMENT ANTICIPATED.

Movement on Foot to Enforce Castro's Retire—Bombardment of the Forts at Puerto Cabello and the Result—Attitude of American State Department. Latest Phase of the South American Situation.

London, Dec. 15.—There is reason to believe that orders will or have been sent to the British commander in Venezuelan waters to take no further aggressive action at present pending a decision being arrived at on the proposal for arbitration. This came in the form of a proposal through the United States government to submit the claims of British and German subjects to arbitration, which Lord Lansdowne announced later in the day in the house of lords as "now under consideration by the British government." Lord Lansdowne added: "We are greatly indebted to the good offer of the United States minister at Caracas."

It was learned that the proposals now before the British government are the original proposals forwarded by Minister Bowen, but which now have received a strong support from the United States government.

In Ambassador Choate's absence, Charge d'Affaires White is making every effort to arrange some pacific method of settlement of the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. He is in communication with the state department at Washington. Nothing definite has yet been arranged, but there is some hope of further hostilities being averted. The negotiations are handicapped by the absence from London of several of the cabinet ministers, as before an answer can be given the cabinet will probably have to meet. No final decision is expected before Wednesday.

On Aug. 8, Lord Lansdowne warned the admiralty to prepare for putting pressure on Venezuela, adding: "The German ambassador, Count Wolf-Meternich, has suggested that the two powers concerned should partake in a joint naval demonstration."

On Aug. 1, the British minister, Mr. Haggard, notified Lord Lansdowne that he had personally presented to the acting foreign minister a note recording his formal protest against the "intolerable conduct of the Venezuelan government," stating that unless prompt compensation was paid to the injured persons he would take the necessary steps to exact reparation. Mr. Haggard concludes: "The minister accepted the note quietly. His final remark was that they were used to these communications. I said that might be the case, but not from England."

Mr. Haggard on Aug. 4 informed Lord Lansdowne that the Venezuelan foreign minister had definitely stated that unless the Ban Righ matter was settled satisfactorily to the interests of both nations the Venezuelan government cannot entertain any question on difficult subject.

On Sept. 17, Vice Admiral Douglas suggested to the admiralty that it would be necessary to bring effective pressure on Venezuela, to blockade the ports of La Guayra, Porto Cabello and Maracaibo, toward the end of November and seize all Venezuelan gunboats "until the demands are complied with." Lord Lansdowne, under date of Oct. 22, says the blockade is "open to some objection."

The next communication dated Nov. 11, Lord Lansdowne notifies Charge d'Affaires Buchanan at Berlin that Germany is prepared to join Great Britain in a final warning and that it had been agreed that the first step should be the seizure of Venezuelan vessels.

The foreign office on Nov. 28, asking the admiralty to forward specific instructions to Vice Admiral Douglas, adds: "Should the British legation be withdrawn from Caracas, it is probable that British interests in Venezuela would be placed in charge of the United States minister." The last communication, dated Dec. 2, is from Lord Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard. It instructs him regarding the terms of the ultimatum, which are already known.

TO DEPOSE CASTRO.

A Movement on Foot in Venezuela to End the Strife.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 15.—Inaction reigns in government circles here. The officials do not know what to do and are depending entirely upon the United States to assist them.

A movement is on foot here, headed by prominent doctors and lawyers, to request President Castro to resign and ask Vice President Ramon Ayala to assume the presidency and form a cabinet without party tendencies. It is also proposed to summon congress to appoint a temporary president and arrange the questions in dispute in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

General Hernandez El Mocho, who has just been released from prison at Maracaibo is expected at Caracas. His partisans are very active and further trouble is apprehended.

The Venezuelan government has announced that Great Britain has opened the navigation of the Orinoco river. Two warships will patrol the mouth of the river and the river itself. This measure applies only to foreign ships. Vessels flying the Venezuelan flag are excluded. The patriotic parade here passed off without and extraordinary incidents. President Castro during the day visited the tomb of Bolivar.

The government reports that the German cruiser Panther is going to Maracaibo to destroy the forts there. Mr. Bowen, at the request of the Dutch minister, Dr. Von Leyden, who is sick at Churaco, has taken charge of Dutch interests here.

Leading merchants of La Guayra arrived here; abandoning that port owing to fear that it will be shelled. The German cruiser Vineta is going to visit Margarite, an island in the Caribbean belonging to Venezuela, 30 miles north of Cumana.

At 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon four loud explosions alarmed the city of Porto Cabello. On investigation it was found that the British marines had blown up the subterranean prison cells of Castle Libertador with dynamite. They also burned all the wooden buildings surrounding the castle and carried away everything that could be transported. After the bombardment of the forts of Porto Cabello and the landing of marines on the island where the castle is situated, the forces of the powers acted just as though they were at home, causing great indignation among the Venezuelans. When everything had been destroyed the marines reembarked.

The Venezuelan government warship Miranda escaped the vigilance of the German cruisers Falke and Panther, which were searching for her, and arrived at Maracaibo.

ATTITUDE OF INACTIVITY

To Be Broken by Uncle Sam If American Ships Are Seized.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Minister Bowen has confirmed the press reports to the effect that the guns of the allied fleet which bombarded Puerto Cabello were directed entirely at the fortifications and not at the town. Regrettable as it was, this statement relieves the affair of the first suspicion that it constituted a violation of international law, in the fact that 24 hours' notice was not served of the bombardment. The requirement as to notice applies to unfortified or fortified towns where the fire must be directed upon the inhabitants, and this was not the case at Puerto Cabello, so that while the officials here regret that the firing took place, they have as yet no cause to protest.

It is now probable that the United States will break its attitude in the event that an attempt is made to enforce the "peaceful blockade" toward an American ship. When the allies were considering the ways and means of bringing Venezuela to terms and a blockade of this character had been decided upon, the German government informed the United States that when the blockade was established it would turn back all shipping, though no effort would be made to seize the ships. The United States government made no response to this statement at the time (last year), not feeling called upon to do so before presentation of an actual case. But now that the blockade is sought to be established, Secretary Hay has informed the general government that American ships should not be interfered with in their trading except the inhibition applies to all shipping and further, the note intimates, a disapproval of stoppage at all.

In so doing the state department is following a precedent, for during the effort of the powers to establish a "peaceful blockade" of Crete in 1898, Secretary Sherman formally recorded a refusal to be bound by it. It happened that no American ship had occasion to enter a Cretan port during the brief period of time the blockade was in force, so the issue was not made then, but in the present case, with regular lines of American steam-

ers entering Venezuelan ports at short intervals, a test case may soon follow. It is within the legal right of the allies to close these ports, but probably this can be accomplished without protest on our part only after a formal declaration of war. The hope is growing here that such a declaration can, after all, be averted, owing to the energy with which Mr. Bowen has acted. The proposal of President Castro to the allied powers for a peaceful settlement was suggested by Mr. Bowen, and it came to the state department through his hands. It has been forwarded to London and Berlin through the embassies here, and as both Great Britain and Germany have heretofore professed a desire to settle the issues peaceably, it is hoped that they will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Bombardment of the Forts.

Puerto Cabello, Dec. 15.—The British cruiser Charybdis and the German cruiser Vineta bombarded the fortress here and quickly silenced it. The bombardment lasted 45 minutes. The fortress is composed of Fort Solano and the castle Libertador. After the firing ceased the Charybdis sent marines to occupy the castle. The fortress was almost demolished. It is probable that only a few persons were injured by the shelling. The commander of castle Libertador has been taken prisoner. The cruisers are still here. The captain of the British merchant steamer Topaze, which was seized by the mob here last Wednesday, visited the British commodore on board the Charybdis and lodged a protest against the violation of his ship. The British captain returned an hour later with a detachment of 50 marines who took charge of the Topaze. The British commodore then sent a message to the authorities at Puerto Cabello demanding immediate satisfaction for the action of the mob in having hauled down the British flag from the Topaze, saying that if this satisfaction was not forthcoming in two hours, at 5 o'clock, the fortress and the custom house would be bombarded. At a quarter before 5 o'clock a reply was received from President Castro, who authorized the chief officials here to give the British commodore ample satisfaction. Before the answer could be communicated to the American consul the hour stipulated for its receipt had arrived and the cruisers immediately opened fire on the fortress.

Ecuador Aroused.

Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dec. 15.—A patriotic demonstration took place here. A large number of people who had attended a meeting went to the Venezuelan and to all the other South American consulates, shouting "Long live Castro," "Long live Venezuela," and "Long live the South American countries." The participants in the demonstration before dispersing adopted a resolution asking President Plaza to protest officially against the action of the allied powers.

Destruction of Fleet Necessary.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—In official quarters here it is said the Venezuelan vessels sunk off La Guayra were old and worthless revenue cutters and unfit to go to sea and that other ships captured have been sent to a certain West Indian port to be refitted for use during the blockade. The destruction of the Venezuelan craft, it is added, was necessary in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Venezuelans, as the German vessels had to leave La Guayra.

Italy's King Interested.

Rome, Dec. 15.—King Victor Emmanuel, who is keenly interested in the Venezuelan trouble, and the attitude of the United States, received in private audience Captain Borea, who is leaving to take command of the Italian cruiser Elbe, bound for Venezuela. The king expressed the hope that a satisfactory solution of the questions would be found, but said he was sure the Italian sailors would do honor to their country in all eventualities.

THREE PERISHED

In a Fire That Damaged a Tenement in New York.

New York, Dec. 15.—Three lives were lost in a tenement house fire in First avenue near 126th street. The dead: Mrs. Mary Bond, 32; Raymond Bond, 7; Rose Bond, 5. Edward Bond was severely burned about the hands and face while trying to save his family. Helen, 2 years, was also severely burned about the hands and face. The loss on the building and contents was \$5,000. The Bonds lived on the top floor of the tenement, which was five stories high. There were 16 families in the house, but all except the Bonds got out safely.

A Denial.

Rome, Dec. 15.—The statement recently published in the United States that Signor di Riva, the minister of Italy at Caracas had gone on board the Italian cruiser Giovanni Hausan at La Guayra, is incorrect.

STRUCK A ROCK.

Additional Particulars of the Wreck on the C. and O.—Mr. Leslie Lewis Slightly Injured.

Mr. Leslie Lewis, formerly of this city, but now a resident of Lexington, was on the C. and O. "Ryer" that was wrecked Saturday night near Whitcomb's, a small station six miles west of White Sulphur Springs. Mr. Lewis is traveling now in the interest of the new method of firing engines recently invented by Mr. J. W. Kincaid, and was on his way East. He writes to Messrs. Preston and Harry Wells that he escaped with a few slight bruises.

Engineer Frank Kirby, of Hinton, and Fireman Danewood, of Low Moor, Va., were killed, and J. R. Strange, baggage-master of Huntington, was seriously injured. A special from Huntington says: "The train being late, the engineer was making a fast run, and when passing Whitcomb struck a rock, weighing about five tons, which had rolled off the mountain. Engine No. 148, a heavy type of mountain engine, was pulling and when it struck the rock turned over completely, end for end, and landed crossways on the track, laying on its side, with the pilot pointing westward. The tender and postal car left the rails, the latter rolling down the bank, striking against some trees, breaking in two, and stopping at the water's edge, and it was a miracle that all the occupants were not instantly killed, but instead only one was slightly hurt about the head. The baggage car turned over, and Baggage-master Strange was seriously hurt by the falling trunks. Not a passenger was injured. A wrecking train was soon on hand and the dead and injured taken to White Sulphur."

ILLUMINATING OIL FOUND.

A Ten Strike by the Central Oil Company in the Ragland Field—Maysvillians Interested.

[Lexington Democrat]

The Central Oil, Gas and Mining Company made a ten strike on their property at the Ragland fields in Bath County Saturday. Nearly all the wells that have been drilled in this section of the country have been fine producers of best quality of lubricating oil which came from the first sand at a depth of from 300 to 400 feet. The opinion has prevailed among the officers of the Central Oil, Gas and Mining Company that a better quality and quantity of oil could be found by going deeper, but they had been so busy with their drilling forces that they were unable to make any experiments until recently when a well was started. Yesterday the drills struck the second sand, at a depth of 620 feet, which contains the finest quality of illuminating oil that has yet been discovered in any part of this State, and rivals the Pennsylvania and West Virginia oil in purity. This fortunate discovery will make the Bath County oil land twice as valuable as they had ever been, as they will now have a double producing capacity, for when the lubricating oil in the first sand has been exhausted, the owners of the wells can drill on through the second sand where a better oil awaits them.

MARKET REPORTS.

Grain and Stock Prices For Dec. 15.
Cleveland — Cattle: Choice dry fed steers, 1.150 to 1.250 lbs., \$5 25@5 75; fair, 1.000 to 1.100 lbs., \$3 75@4 50; choice light butchers, \$5 25@4 00; coarse and rough fat steers, 1.000 to 1.500 lbs., \$4 00@4 50; choice heifers, \$5 00@5 00; choice cows, \$3 50@3 75; fair to choice fat cows, \$2 00@3 75. Sheep and Lambs—Good to choice lambs, \$5 10@5 25; culls and commons, \$4 00@4 50; good wether sheep, \$3 00@3 65; culls and commons, \$1 50@2 50; good to choice yearling wethers, \$3 50@4 00; good to choice ewes, \$3 00@3 40. Calves—\$7 00@7 50. Hogs — Yorkers, \$6 00@6 05; mediums, \$6 30; pigs, \$5 00@5 50.
Chicago — Cattle: Good to prime steers, \$5 00@6 00; poor to medium, \$3 50@5 50; stockers and feeders, \$2 00@4 50; cows, \$1 25@4 50; heifers, \$2 00@3 00; canners, \$1 25@2 40; bulls, \$2 00@4 50; Texas fed steers, \$3 50@4 75; western steers, \$4 00@5 20. Sheep and Lambs—Good to choice wethers, \$3 50@4 25; fair to choice mixed, \$2 50@3 50; western sheep, \$3 65@4 25; native lambs, \$3 75@5 25; western lambs, \$4 00@5 25. Calves — \$3 00@7 00. Hogs — Mixed and butchers, \$5 10@6 10; good to choice heavy, \$6 15@6 35; rough heavy, \$5 80@6 10; light, \$5 50@5 80.
Pittsburg — Cattle: Choice, \$5 50@6 10; prime, \$5 00@5 80; good, \$5 10@5 40; tidy butchers, \$4 50@5 05; fair, \$3 75@4 25; heifers, \$3 00@4 50; cows, bulls and stags, \$2 00@3 75; fresh cows, \$3 00@3 50. Sheep and Lambs—Prime wethers, \$4 00@4 15; good mixed, \$3 00@3 65; fair, \$3 20@3 50; choice lambs, \$5 50@5 65; common to good, \$4 00@5 40. Calves—Veals, \$7 50@8 25. Hogs—Prime heavy, \$6 35@6 40; mediums, \$6 15@6 17; heavy Yorkers, \$6 10@6 15; light Yorkers, \$6 05; pigs, \$6 00.
East Buffalo — Cattle: Shipping, \$5 25@5 60; exporters, \$5 50@6 50; butchers, \$4 50@5 50; cows, \$3 00@4 25; heifers, \$3 50@5 00; stockers, \$2 50@4 00; common to good feeders, \$3 50@4 00. Sheep and Lambs—Best lambs, \$5 00@5 85; fair to good, \$3 25@5 50; culls and commons, \$3 50@4 50; mixed sheep, \$4 00@4 25; culls and commons, \$2 25@2 35; wethers and yearlings, \$4 25@5 00. Calves — \$5 50@6 00. Hogs—Pigs, \$5 85@6 00.

GETS HALF A MILLION

To Stamp Out Disease Among the Livestock in New England.

HOUSE ASSISTS SECRETARY WILSON.

Omnibus Statehood Bill and the Militia Measure Up in the Senate. Congressional Proceedings and Washington News.

Washington, Dec. 15.—When the senate met the house resolution providing for the usual holiday recess from Dec. 20 to Jan. 5 was agreed to without division.

Mr. Bate (Tenn.) submitted the report of the minority on the omnibus statehood bill, which was read. It favors the omnibus bill.

The senate then began consideration of the bill to promote the efficiency of the militia. Mr. Pettus (Ala.) submitted an amendment striking out section 24 of the bill providing for a reserve force of trained men, on the ground that it was a direct infringement of the authority given to the state by the constitution. A brief debate followed, which was participated in by Messrs. Foraker, Daniel, Hale, Spooner, Pettus, Proctor and Allison, and at 2 o'clock the bill was displaced by the omnibus statehood bill.

A message from the president was laid before the senate, recommending the payment of indemnity to the heirs of certain Italians killed in the southern states.

Consideration of the statehood bill was resumed. Mr. Quay (Pa.) said that as the senator from Minnesota (Mr. Nelson), had "suddenly and tumultuously" withdrawn the substitute, it was his desire to know if Mr. Nelson intended to rereport the same. Replying, Mr. Nelson said that it was his purpose to rereport it, but could not say at this time when he would do so. Mr. Dillingham (Vt.) then addressed the senate at length in opposition to the omnibus statehood bill.

In the House.

Rev. Henry Beets of Grand Rapids, Mich., delivered the invocation in the house. This was District of Columbia day, but before the regular order was demanded, Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriation committee called up the urgent deficiency appropriation bill reported on Saturday.

The bill carried about \$1,400,000, the principal items being \$500,000 for stamping out the foot and mouth disease among live stock in New England and the same amount to cover deficiencies in the rural free delivery service. After some discussion, the bill was passed.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of District business. The first bill was a measure to provide for a union station in this city.

ROOF COLLAPSED.

Burying Fifty Men in the Ruins. Thirty Engines Damaged.

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—The roof of the Pennsylvania railroad roundhouse at the Powelton avenue station, West Philadelphia, collapsed, burying 50 men in the ruins. A number of injured were taken out and removed to hospitals. The ruins caught fire and for a time burned fiercely. Nobody was killed as a result of the accident. Thirty locomotives were damaged by the falling roof. The firemen succeeded in subduing the flames before they made great headway.

Children Cremated.

Detroit, Dec. 15.—News from Pellston, Emmett county, says Alfred Durke's two children, and a child belonging to his brother, Charles Durke, were burned to death in Alfred Durke's house. Mr. and Mrs. Durke left the three children, two boys and a girl, who were aged one, four and six years, alone in the house while they went to the store. They were gone about 30 minutes and the house burned in their absence, cremating the children.

Charged With Bribery.

St. Louis, Dec. 15.—The cases of Charles J. Denny, John A. Sheridan, Edmund Bersch, Emil Hartmann, Charles A. Gutke, J. J. Hannigan, Charles Kelly and Julius Lehmann, former members, charged with bribery in connection with the Suburban bill, were called for trial in Judge Ryan's court. Their attorneys filed applications for a change of venue.

No Hope For Recovery.

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—There is no hope for the recovery of John E. Ela, president of the Civil Service Reform league of Chicago, who was stricken with apoplexy while attending the National Civil Service Reform convention in this city. The physicians at the Methodist hospital say that Mr. Ela cannot recover. His wife reached the hospital, having been summoned from Chicago, but her husband was too ill to recognize her.